



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY
MIKE STRAIN DVM
COMMISSIONER



HORTICULTURE COMMISSION MEETING

March 13, 2008

9:00 a.m.

Veterans Memorial Auditorium
5825 Florida Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Minutes

**Agricultural &
Environmental
Sciences**

P.O. Box 3596
Baton Rouge,
LA 70821
(225) 925-9770
Fax: 925-3760

**Agro-Consumer
Services**

P.O. Box 3098
Baton Rouge,
LA 70821
(225) 922-1341
Fax: 923-4877

**Animal Health
Services**

P.O. Box 1951
Baton Rouge,
LA 70821
(225) 925-3962
Fax: 925-4103

Forestry

P.O. Box 1628
Baton Rouge,
LA 70821
(225) 925-4500
Fax: 922-1356

**Management
& Finance**

P.O. Box 3481
Baton Rouge,
LA 70821
(225) 922-1255
Fax: 925-6012

Marketing

P.O. Box 3334
Baton Rouge,
LA 70821
(225) 922-1277
Fax: 922-1289

**Soil & Water
Conservation**

P.O. Box 3554
Baton Rouge,
LA 70821
(225) 922-1269
Fax: 922-2577

CALL TO ORDER

The hearing was called to order by Mr. Bass at 9:07 a.m.

Mr. Bass recognized Commissioner Strain who welcomed the members and made brief comments to the commission.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Mrs. Bellington.

Members present: Fred Bass, Todd Parker, Dr. Paul Coreil, Russell Ruckstuhl, Emily Stich, Randall Harris, Harold Tani, Van Cox, Stephen Hoover, Donald Kelly, Thomas Spedale, Rob Barry, III and Bill Fleming.

Members absent: Roger Mayes.

A quorum was present.

Others present: Marvin Montgomery, LDAF Counsel; Angelique Freil, Hearing Officer; Craig Roussel, LDAF; Mark LeBlanc, LDAF; Ruby Bolding, LDAF; Fran Bellington, LDAF; Tabitha Grey, LDAF Executive Counsel; Paul Blair, LDAF; and Allen Owings, LA Cooperative Extension Service.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Cox made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2007 hearing. This motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Motion: Mr. Parker made a motion to appoint Mr. Craig Roussel as the Director of the Horticulture Commission and Mr. Mark LeBlanc as the Assistant Director of the Horticulture Commission. This motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and passed unanimously.

SET NEXT HEARING DATE

The next Horticulture Commission meeting will be Thursday, June 12, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in the Veterans Memorial Auditorium.

REINSTATEMENT REQUESTS

Mr. Donald Hart requested to be placed on the agenda to ask for reinstatement of his Horticulture Service license; he did not appear.

Mr. Phillip Robinson requested to be placed on the agenda to ask for reinstatement of his Landscape Contractor and Horticulture Service licenses; he did not appear.

Mrs. Teresa Youngblood requested to have her Retail Florist license reinstated.

Motion: Mr. Cox made a motion to reinstate her license. This motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and passed unanimously.

HEARING

CONTINUED CASES

John Dunn
214 West McNeese St.
Lake Charles, LA 70601

Case No.: 07-017

Two violations of L.R.S. 3:3804 (C) for engaging in a regulated profession (arborist) without the proper license.

Mr. Dunn was not present but the department proceeded because service was effected.

Motion: Mr. Harris made a motion to find Mr. Dunn guilty. This motion was seconded by Mr. Cox and passed unanimously. The department recommended a penalty of \$250.00 per violation for a total fine of \$500.00.

Motion: Mr. Harris made a motion to accept the recommendation. This motion was seconded by Mr. Cox and passed unanimously.

At 10:26 a 10 minute recess was called.

The meeting was called back to order at 10:35 with a quorum present.

Stephen Lacroix
d/b/a A New Leaf Landsculpture
26355 Mildred Rd.
Lacombe, LA 70445

Case No.: 07-019

Thirty four violations of L.R.S. 3:3804 (C) for advertising and soliciting in regulated professions (landscape architecture, landscape contractor, horticulture service, arborist and irrigation contractor) without the proper license.

Mr. Lacroix was not present but the Hearing Officer ruled that service was effected so the department proceeded.

Motion: Mr. Cox made a motion to find Mr. Lacroix guilty. This motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and passed unanimously. The department recommended a penalty of \$250.00 per violation for a total fine of \$8,500.00. **Motion:** Mr. Cox made a motion to accept the recommendation. This motion was seconded by Mr. Ruckstuhl and passed unanimously. **Motion:** Mr. Harris made a motion for the department to seek an injunction against Mr. Lacroix. This motion was seconded by Mr. Spedale and passed unanimously.

Jimmy Dupre
d/b/a Dupre's Complete Tree Service
8714 Weeks Island Rd.
New Iberia, LA 70560

Case No.: 07-015

Two violations of L.R.S. 3:3804 (C) for advertising in a regulated profession (arborist) without the proper license.

Case continued.

New Cases

Randy Seals
d/b/a Seals Tree Service
211 Rock Hill Road
Dry Prong, LA 71423

Case No.: 08-002

Six violations of L.R.S. 3:3804 (C) for advertising, soliciting and engaging in a regulated profession (arborist) without the proper license.

Case Continued.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Roussel gave a report on possible changes to regulations regarding enforcement.

Dr. Coreil reported that it has been documented that there is Roundup resistant Johnson grass in Arkansas.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Harris made a motion to adjourn at 11:10 a.m. This motion was seconded by Mr. Cox and passed unanimously.